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Afghan Agricultural Research and Extension Development Program (AGRED)



Quarterly Report

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Acronyms

AAEP	USDA Afghan Agricultural Extension Program
ACBAR	Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief
ADT	US Military Agriculture Development Team
AGRED	USAID Afghan Agricultural Research & Extension Development Program
CBCMP	USDA Capacity Building and Change Management Program
CHAMP	USAID Commercial Horticulture & Agricultural Marketing Program
COP	Chief of Party
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
CDC	Community Development Council
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
EC	European Community
GIROA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
LOE	Level of Effort
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRRD	Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
PMP	Performance Management Plan
RADP	USAID Regional Agriculture Development Program
ROP	Roots of Peace
TAMU	Texas A&M University
UCD	University of California, Davis
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USG	United States Government
WSU	Washington State University
PDC	Provincial Development Council
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
WSU	Washington State University

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Executive Summary

The third quarter of the program focused on high-level systems and finalizing the key program documents. This included the AGRED-ROP revised PMP and Work Plan which incorporated comments from both USAID and MAIL. The PMP outlines how AGRED and MAIL roles are not only interconnected but that the responsibilities of each are distinct. The AGRED baseline survey was conducted and will provide the data by which program progress at the farm level is measured.

During this quarter, AGRED led the development of MAIL's Benchmark Implementation Plan which outlines the envisioned capacity building activities MAIL will undertake in order to be able to lead research and extension services that respond to the needs of Afghan farmers through USAID funding.

With the release of the strategic goals, for the On-Budget program with MAIL, the role of ROP shifts somewhat from what was initially envisioned in the five-year work plan. Off-budget funds will support MAIL in achieving the strategic goals through technical expertise and training support that extends beyond the research and extension directorates. It includes working towards a supportive institutional and policy environment as well as on the ground capacity building in Extension and Research. On-budget funds will be used to implement the activities envisioned in the strategic goals and that support MAIL to refine its leadership skills, identify the needs of farmers and agribusinesses, and design interventions that raise productivity, improve new markets and increase farm incomes.

With strengthened capacity, MAIL will design effective research and extension services with its own resources and DAILs will become a major delivery mechanism for improved technologies, sustainable economic and social development that is responsive to citizens' needs, leading to the achievement of the benchmarks.

CBCMP is assisting MAIL to implement planning, budgeting and authorization procedures that will allow MAIL to meet USAID requirements for on-budget funding. CBCMP staff generously advised AGRED staff on the new procedures and policies that will positively impact MAIL and DAIL research and extension programs.

The AGRED MOU (USAID-MAIL) is close to finalization and is expected to be signed early in the coming quarter. There will be only one AGRED-related MOU between USAID and MAIL. The finalized MOU will be a significant step in establishing MAIL buy-in to AGRED activities and trainings and will grant AGRED field staff formal access to DAIL staff and resources.

The Sub-contract between the Roots of Peace and the University Consortium supporting AGRED was signed this quarter. Washington State University is the Consortium Lead and supporting universities are Texas A&M and the University of California at Davis. They are actively planning immediate involvement in AGRED.

AGRED is making use of a small office space in the Research and Extension building at MAIL. However, there is a need for more of the staff to be based at MAIL, which has been promised in the near future, after the opening of the new building where more space will be made available for our staff.

Highlights

This quarter was one of the busiest and most challenging for AGRED so far. Significant progress has been made in all aspects of the project and AGRED continues to push towards its goals and objectives for this first year of the project. This quarter, the AGRED team filled vacancies at both the Kabul and provincial levels, including hiring of the new COP and his two DCOPs (program and operations), which has brought about a positive change for the project.

On-Budget Implementation Plan

The first draft of the On-Budget Implementation Plan, completed this quarter was a major step forward in the AGRED program. The Implementation Plan, addressing the Strategic Goals and associated benchmarks provided by USAID. It outlines how MAIL will enhance its capacity to manage research and extension services that respond to the needs of Afghan farmers. The comprehensive document and accompanying methods of verification will serve as guiding documents for both the off-budget and on-budget activities.

This first draft was shared with USAID and MAIL for review. A second draft will incorporate received comments, additional details and is expected to be released in the coming quarter.

On-Budget Workshop

An “On-Budget Workshop” is another early milestone for the AGRED program. The workshop is envisioned as the “kick-off” for AGRED, bringing together senior management from MAIL, USAID, ROP, parallel and cooperating programs and donors, to unveil the on-budget process and the mechanisms on how it will proceed. The On-Budget Workshop is scheduled for early in the next quarter

Baseline Survey

AGRED M&E has conducted two surveys; 1) the first one was conducted to collect data on the human and physical inventory of nine research centers and 26 extension centers; and 2) baseline survey in seven provinces, nine districts, 27 villages and 900 households. These surveys will inform targets for PMP indicators.

1

Research and Extension



BACKGROUND

The major objectives of AGRED's research and extension program are to improve the livelihoods of farmers through providing increased access to modern technology, by enhancing access to on-budget funding in building the capacity of the Extension and Research of the MAIL and DAIL's in expanding their direct service to the farming community.

The AGRED work plan outlines a process by which AGRED will assist and verify actions in support of distribution of funds based upon a system of Goals, Benchmarks achievements and verification of achievements. System basics are that the USAID will issue Implementation Letters, which set forth actions to be achieved, based upon Goals and Benchmarks, which when completed will trigger a release of funds from a USAID 'Special Account' controlled in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance. DAIL's will submit requests for funds to the MAIL through internal processes to access funds needed in building the capacity at the field level. AGRED will work closely with the DAIL's in improving their capacity and ability to lead research and extension services that respond to the needs of Afghan farmers.

ACTIVITIES

During this quarter, the new Chief of Party and Deputy Chief of Party for Programs and Operations were recruited, as well as many other staff coming close to completing the staffing design numbers. Many high level discussions and strategy planning meetings were held with MAIL, parallel agencies and plans were laid for cooperative activities in all areas of the for AGRED work plan. In preparation for upcoming activities, many trainings were held developing internal capacity, as well as that of AGRED counterparts at MAIL and DAILs. The Monitoring and Evaluation department of AGRED finalized the PMP and the Baseline study design and its implementation. The quarter closed out with intense collaboration with MAIL in program planning for the "on budget" mechanisms that will be required for financial management.

The AGRED extension team participated in an Extension Knowledge Workshop in the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). This workshop resulted in building the capacity of the AGRED regional coordinators technical aspects that has had a positive effect on the knowledge of the DAILs extension staff being trained by the AGRED team.

AGRED regional staff participated in several coordination meetings in the regional and provincial level. These meetings provided the AGRED team a chance to introduce the AGRED program and discuss the research and extension priorities of the DAILs. As a result of these meetings, the teams identified over 30 reasonable concepts to be considered for funded mini projects. These concepts will be developed further in the format of mini project proposals, then will be submitted to be reviewed by the Technical Working Group of MAIL Extension and Research directorates, for an action recommendation.

Throughout this quarter, the AGREED regional and provincial staff attended several regularly scheduled and ad. hoc. Agriculture Technical Working Group and administrative meetings at DAILs, they met with ADT's, directors of DAILs, AAEP, CBCMP and USAID regional representatives. The AGREED team provided overviews on the AGREED program and delivered progress reports to the meetings.

AGRED MOU

Two MOUs to formalize the AGREED program between partners USAID, MAIL and ROP were drafted and were shared with the USAID and MAIL for comments. After discussion between the three parties, it was decided that one MOU will to be signed between MAIL and USAID only. It was requested that AGREED to organize a workshop on 6th April 2013 under the title of "MAIL On-Budget Workshop". During the last month of the quarter the AGREED team was busy in meetings with MAIL, USAID and other IPs such as CBCMP, JICA, AAEP and IWMP in organizing the 6th April Event. Based on all the efforts done by the AGREED team, full arrangements were made for the event. It was decided to conduct the workshop in the FAO hall within the MAIL compound in Kabul.

AGRED MAIL ON-BUDGET WORK PLAN

AGRED began working with MAIL to develop a work plan that addresses USAID benchmarks and ultimately addresses farmer needs. Given the number of programs currently focussing on agriculture, AGREED has held several meetings with other implementers and with MAIL to discuss field level engagement approaches. The meetings involved collaborative brainstorming on the approaches employed by the EU, USAID, USDA, World Bank and others. AGREED participated in or coordinated discussions on the CDCs and DAILs. Coordination meetings were held with EC, AAEP, and CBCMP.

AGRED supported MAIL with its benchmark implementation planning. MAIL has reviewed the benchmarks and provided a list of recommendations and accompanying priorities. The first draft of the MAIL On-Budget plan for AGREED was developed and submitted to USAID. Following USAID comments it will go to MAIL for review, feedback and suggestions. Once this plan is approved, it will be a roadmap for MAIL to achieve the agreed upon goals and benchmarks.

PILOT PROJECTS

As the result of stakeholder workshops conducted in previous program quarters, around 340 concepts were submitted from the DAILs and related farmer groups. Following review and consolidation was completed, 30 potential mini projects were identified.

During the above need identification process, a "Mini-Proposal Format and selection Process" was being developed. It was sent to MAIL Extension directorate for comments. We have begun using the format pending receipt of comments. Several proposals are drafted and submitted to the Extension and Research directorates of MAIL for their review and endorsement.

The AGRED Herat regional team developed a mini-proposal for a wheat seeding methodology trial that was endorsed by the MAIL extension department and implemented in early March. The AGRED team continued developing proposals for mini projects in close cooperation with the related DAILs directorates and the MAIL extension directorate. Four additional mini-proposals were submitted to MAIL for endorsement in late March. These drafted proposals are based in accordance to the cropping calendar and their potential for success is dependent upon appropriate agricultural season and conditions. They are being appropriately evaluated.

Event

The AGRED team funded and has provided technical support in establishing Wheat Trials comparing seeding methods in Herat. The implementation of this mini project started in March 2013. The project is currently under-way.



AGRED EXTENSION AND RESEARCH STAFFING AND OFFICES MOBILIZATION

All Regional Gender Specialist positions and Extension regional and provincial coordinators have been filled. Only some of the more challenging positions, such as the National Research Coordinator, are still to be filled with qualified Afghan nationals. The position will be announced as open to TCN's well to try and recruit well wualified candidates for review.

All major mobilization procurements have been funded and regional offices are being equipped. In a number of instances DAIL directors are requiring that the MOU be signed before AGRED staff is granted access to the DAIL office.

AGRED EXTENSION & RESEARCH MEETINGS

The AGRED Research and Extension teams in the central and provincial levels participated in several coordination meetings with EC, AAEP, CBCMP, MAIL Planning and Policy and ATWG. They also met with DAILs directors and DAILs' research and extension units; with ADT teams in Paktya, Ghazni, Kandahar and Logar provinces. During the ADT and AGRED meetings they shared their extension and research needs to design and implement mini projects to meet the real needs of the farmers. Kandahar regional coordinators participated in the Water Resources Management Conference in Kandahar.

The objectives of the coordination meetings with AAEP was to develop a joint training plan for the year 2013. The first outcome of these meetings is training to AGRED and

seven DAIL directorates on proposal writing that is planned for the month of APRIL – MAY 2013.

CHALLENGES

This reporting quarter was a challenging quarter for the AGREED team. The challenges are listed below:

- Addressing women farmers' specific problems and needs is challenging because of security and cultural restrictions. The AGREED team has been trying to work closely and creatively to put MAIL Research and Extension in the lead and support Women Extension and Research in order to address women farmers' constraints.

RESULTS

Following are the results of research and extension efforts for the reporting quarter:

1. The Mini proposal format was finalized (pending comments by MAIL) and the implementation of the first mini project was initiated. Several other mini proposals were drafted and submitted to MAIL for comments and endorsement.
2. ROP-AGRED work plan is finalized and approved by USAID.
3. Most of the vacant positions (44 out of 47) in the regional offices for AGREED are filled. AGREED currently has presence in all 26 target provinces and seven regional offices.
4. MAIL-AGRED on-budget work plan drafted and submitted to USAID and MAIL for comments and inputs.

IMPACT

The Capacity of DAILs Research and Extension staff to identify needs, write and submit a proposal has been improved and now they are self-initiating drafting proposals for mini projects. This improved skill will better meet the real needs of farmers.

This quarter, focused on required program documents development and submission.

Administrative functions as well as AGREED responsibilities in MAIL are much clearer to AGREED staff, DAILs and MAIL. A higher level of impact will result in cooperation between MAIL/DAILs and AGREED in the central, regional and provincial levels.

NEXT QUARTERS PLAN

1. Translation and approval of the AGREED Gender Policy
2. Training of the AGREED women program extension coordinators on Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan
3. Expand working with the MAIL/DAILs to coordinate with Ag University,

- Institutes and High School directorates in the seven-targeted regions.
4. Working on AGREED mini proposals to ensure proposals are engendered
 5. Continue work with MAIL and DAILs on the Benchmark Implementation plan
 6. Expand development of the mini proposals for farmer driven extension and research projects
 7. Conducting Trainings of proposal and report writing and M&E
 8. Implementing six mini-proposals at Badam Bagh, Bamyan, Herat, Kandahar, Kunduz and Nangarhar provinces
 9. Hold awareness meetings/trainings on the On-Budget process in both MAIL and DAIL levels.

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Monitoring and Evaluation

BACKGROUND

AGRED's M&E program will play a major role in tracking MAIL and DAIL research and extension activities, and guiding AGRED's activities in support of MAIL and DAILs. As AGRED's M&E team is a small three-person team, they will be largely working directly through MAIL when systems level capacity building is needed, and through DAIL Research and Extension Officers for field level data collection.

The AGRED work plan has M&E to develop MAIL M&E and reporting systems in this quarter. By the development of the MAIL On-budget Implementation Plan, the improvements to MAIL M&E and reporting systems will be addressed through specific benchmarks. AGRED M&E will continue to support this process, however the timeline is to be guided by MAIL.

ACTIVITY

During the reporting quarter, AGRED M&E unit remained engaged in various important activities. In January 2013, assets inventories assessment was conducted in target research and extension centers. A combined report of the assessment together with detailed individual reports was submitted to USAID.

In March 2013, the PMP document of the AGRED program was approved by USAID. The PMP has 13 performance indicators.

A baseline study for the AGRED Program was initiated. In early April 2013, baseline data collection will be completed.

The M&E Unit conducted a capacity assessment of MAIL M&E directorate using Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT). The purpose of this tool is to assess the capacity and systems of MAIL M&E and to design an implementation plan for building M&E system and capacity of MAIL/M&E – which is one of the performance benchmarks for MAIL. The assessment report was shared with USAID.

Inventories and human resources mapping assessment

The purpose of the assessment was to determine the status of physical assets and human resources at each of the research centers and extension centers in target provinces. Findings of this assessment will be used by AGRED and MAIL to evaluate needs for on-budget funding for refurbishment of the centers. The assessments will support the implementation and M&E of the Strategic Goal for Infrastructure and related benchmarks in the MAIL AGRED On-Budget Work Plan.

AGRED conducted the inventory and human resource mapping survey from 17 to 20 January at nine Research Farms (Balkh, Kunduz, Kabul, Paktya, Nangarhar, Herat and Kandahar Provinces) and 26 Extension Centers on provincial levels. Inventory

and human resources mapping survey will help MAIL with reconstruction and rehabilitation of nine Research Farms and 26 Extension Centers in target provinces.

A combined inventory report was produced for all 35 centers and was submitted to USAID for review. Information in the report was disaggregated by type of center i.e. research centers and extension centers. Apart from the combined report, detailed report for each of the targets centers was also compiled. During the reporting period detailed reports for 17 centers were produced and shared with USAID. The remaining 18 reports will be shared in the next quarter.

Baseline study

The AGREED baseline survey was initiated in February 2013. The purpose of the baseline study is to collect and analyze required data and set baseline values for the selected performance indicators listed below.

- **Indicator 1:** Percent change in production of key crops by the target farmers as compare to non-beneficiary farmers
- **Indicator 2:** Percent increase of farmers accessing extension services
- **Indicator 3:** Percent DAIL-assisted farmers adopting improved technologies and practices as a result of USG assistance
- **Indicator 9:** Percent increase in MAIL/DAIL organizational capacity areas targeted by AGREED as measure by the OCAT
- **Indicator 10:** Percent of target farmers reached through public awareness campaigns

A total of nine districts from seven provinces were selected for the baseline study. In each district 100 farmers were randomly selected. Data was collected from 900 farmers including 201 women farmers. For women farmers district wise, see table below:

Shakardara, and Charsayab (Kabul)	53
Kama (Nanagarhar)	15
Ahmad Aba (Paktya)	18
Dand (Kandahar)	9
Guzara (Herat)	27
Dehdadi (Mazar)	34
Khanabad (Kunduz)	21
Jaghuri (Ghazni)	24
Total	201

Approval of AGRED PMP

In February 2013, AGRED submitted revised version of PMP incorporating USAID comments. The PMP was approved by USAID and a meeting was held with the M&E and gender Units of USAID to clarify some of their comments.

AGRED Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP)

Draft EMMP for AGRED was produced and shared with USAID for review. The EMPP consists of:

- Discussion of IEE and threshold decisions
- The Environmental Verification Form / screening checklist
- The Mitigation Plan for specific environmental threats carried out by AGRED
- The Reporting Format
- General EMS procedures to operationalize the plan

A revised version of the EMMP submitted to USAID in March 2013.

RESULT

Followings are the results of M&E efforts this quarter:

1. AGRED PMP approved by USAID
2. Baseline data collected from 900 target farmers
3. Capacity assessment of MAIL M&E directorate completed and capacity building plan developed
4. DAILs' research and extension centers needs are documented via assessment of inventory and human resources.
5. AGRED EMMP drafted and submitted to USAID for review

IMPACT

This section will be completed when measurable data is available either from the AGRED baseline survey and collected M&E data, or AGRED assessments of progress made towards specific Strategic Goals.

Challenges & issues

Due to security reasons, AGRED M&E team faced challenges in reaching some of the randomly selected villages for the baseline data collection. The challenge was overcome by producing 'list B' of sampled villages. In those cases where sampled villages were unable to visit, villages were selected from 'list B' – and data was collected in those villages.

NEXT QUARTER ACTIVITIES

1. To finalize AGRED Baseline study report
2. To finalize of Environmental Mitigation Monitoring Plan (EMMP)
3. Training of AGRED staff on M&E, benchmarks, and field level monitoring
4. Establishment of verification and monitoring system for performance benchmarks
5. M&E system for monitoring of AGRED trainings
6. Capacity building of MAIL M&E directorate

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Communications

BACKGROUND

During FY 2013, AGRED is, and will be, working on bridging communications between Research and Extension directorates and other departments within MAIL as well as external resources like universities and researchers.

AGRED Research and Extension Coordinators and their MAIL and DAIL counterparts continue to refine communication lines to ensure closer collaboration across the many stakeholders to include USAID, AAEP, CBCMP, and others.

The communication activities outlined in the work plan with regard to materials development need to be realigned with consideration for the Strategic Goals. The materials to be produced are not needed at this stage, however communications activities will support the on-budget process as the need arises in these early stages.

Specifically, the long-term Communications Plan referred to in the work plan, will be incorporated into the Strategic Goals tied to MAIL/DAIL internal and external communications.

ACTIVITIES

External Communications

Throughout the reporting period, AGRED made an in-depth effort to coordinate across MAIL and across other donor programs. The process for writing the AGRED Strategic Goals and Implementation Plan provided an opportunity to involve a number of directorates within MAIL (Research and Extension, Policy & Planning, Provincial Affairs, Human Resources, M&E) and to seek input and buy-in from each.

The effort also included a number of meetings to bring together the implementers working within MAIL to address similar or related areas, for example research or work with the research farms. The implementers are able to share a great deal of existing information on the resources available within MAIL and DAILs as well as the perceived areas of needed improvement.

By bringing all actors together it makes for more efficient efforts towards capacity building and program improvement within MAIL, but perhaps more significantly, it also provides a more coherent picture for MAIL to begin to manage the many actors working within its systems.

Internal Communications

AGRED is committed to improving the quality of internal reporting systems to include sharing meeting minutes more widely, and adding greater depth to reports provided to USAID.

The AGRED Communication Manager participated in the Communication Workshop conducted by USAID. The focus of the workshop was writing success stories and using the social media to do outreach on USAID project activities.

RESULT

Followings are the results of communication efforts this quarter:

1. AGRED reporting is improved
2. Better flow of information from regional offices to central level
3. Improved coordination across MAIL and other implementers for On-Budget Implementation Plan

IMPACT

This section will be completed when measurable data is available either from the AGRED baseline survey and collected M&E data, or AGRED assessments of progress made towards specific Strategic Goals.

CHALLENGES

One of the biggest challenges with communications at the field level was Internet availability for the staff based at the DAILs. To overcome this challenge, the AGRED team was equipped with portable internet modems. Provision of Internet to the DAILs looks to be one of the early undertakings to meet the Strategic Goals related to communications.

NEXT QUARTER ACTIVITIES

1. Support to MAIL on Strategic Goals related to communications
2. Working with MAIL on needed materials to represent AGRED on-budget process and activities
3. Continue high levels of coordination across actors within MAIL/DAILs
4. Assist with expanded communications between DAIL's and MAIL.

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Training and Workshops

BACKGROUND

Training is a major component of the AGRED strategy to enhance the research and extension capacity of MAIL and DAILs. As intended in the AGRED work plan, formal training was begun with short-term introductory trainings late in 2012. These short-term trainings, 2-4 days in length, are to cover only the immediate information needs of Extension Officers and farmers. The first training was on leadership, with the following two on Research and Extension, respectively.

Training topics were selected on the basis of assessments and programmatic needs. With the development of the MAIL On-Budget Work Plan, AGRED training topics are being expanded and are including the needs required to meet the strategic Goals and Benchmarks.

The AGRED work plan calls for an “Annual Conference,” which in this first year of the project has been converted into the On-Budget Workshop. The On-Budget Workshop will bring together the leadership from USAID and MAIL, with ROP serving in a coordination role, to review and discuss the on-budget process and how funding streams work within MAIL.

ACTIVITY

Continued delays in finalizing the MOU meant that the first in the series of short-term trainings for DAIL research and extension staff planned for the month of January, 2013, was postponed until the MOU is signed. Minister Rahimi cited ambiguity in the roles and responsibilities of ROP, MAIL and DAIL as the reason for postponing the training.

At the request of DAIL staff in Kabul, Kandahar, and Kunduz, AGRED field staff conducted on-the-job trainings on demo plot design, planting methods and irrigation practices for DAIL technical employees.

AGRED M&E team delivered a one day training to the AGRED and MAIL field staff on the methodology of conducting a baseline study. MAIL staff attended the training as well and accompanied the AGRED regional teams in the target provinces, when they conducted the baseline data collection activity. A Training of Trainers training was also delivered to the teams that were conducting the facilities inventory and human mapping assessment.

The AGRED subcontractor Washington State University (WSU), and its consortium, met with AGRED, MAIL and other USAID and USDA programs in Kabul to develop AGRED’s training plans and to realign planned trainings with Strategic Goals and the support needed to begin achieving the benchmarks under each Strategic Goal.

Consortium Trainers met with officials from MAIL and discussed the training programs in detail to ensure trainings are not duplicated and align with the policies of MAIL.

Additionally, trainers visited the Kabul DAIL to view options for future training venues and to visit the AGRED sponsored demonstration plots at Badam Bagh Farm.

Anticipated future trainings will address:

- Extension organization and function
- Applied research methods
- Leadership
- Relevant crop calendar topics

Seven AGRED Regional Extension Coordinators attended an extension training hosted by AAEP. The training was held at the University of Faisalabad, Pakistan. Participants gained knowledge of the participatory extension systems and conflict effects on farm production. This program included field visit projects as well. AGRED regional training coordinators planned to transfer this knowledge to the research and extension staff of the concerned DAILs, and in MAIL as well.

RESULT

Followings are the results of training efforts this quarter:

1. AGRED staff building relationships at DAILs through mentoring; DAIL staff receiving technical training.
2. AGRED and MAIL staff trained on baseline survey data collection.
3. Coordination between AAEP and AGRED for joint attendance at Univ. of Faisalabad training.

IMPACT

This section will be completed when measurable data is available either from the AGRED baseline survey and collected M&E data, or AGRED assessments of progress made towards specific Strategic Goals.

CHALLENGES & ISSUES

Without a formal MOU, it has proven difficult for AGRED staff to establish relationships at DAILs.

NEXT QUARTER ACTIVITIES

1. Revise the AGRED training plan to align with Strategic Goals and benchmarks
2. Roll-out short-term trainings and begin long-term training participant selection
3. Conduct training on Mini Proposal for AGRED and DAIL staff

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AGRED Performance Indicators

The baseline survey that is conducted mentioned in detail in the M&E section of the document will support the indicators 1, 2, 3, 9, and 10 that are listed below:

Indicator 1: Percent change in production of key crops by the target farmers as compare to non-beneficiary farmers

Indicator 2: Percent increase of farmers accessing extension services

Indicator 3: Percent DAIL-assisted farmers adopting improved technologies and practices as a result of USG assistance

Indicator 9: Percent increase in MAIL/DAIL organizational capacity areas targeted by AGRED as measure by the OCAT

Indicator 10: Percent of target farmers reached through pubic awareness campaigns

Indicator No.	Performance Indicators for Reporting to USAID	Baseline	Fiscal Year Targets					Notes
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
AO: Increased agricultural productivity through sustained application of science and technology								
1	Percent change in production of key crops by the target farmers as compared to non-beneficiary farmers^ (PMP5.1.1a)	TBA through farm-level survey	--	10%	--	15%	--	Cumulative target
IR: Delivery of Agricultural-Related Public Services improved as a result of USG assistance								
2	Percent increase of Afghan farmers accessing extension services^ (PMP5.3.2c)	TBA through farm-level survey	10%	20%	20%	20%	20%	Percentages show year on year increases.

Indicator No.	Performance Indicators for Reporting to USAID	Baseline	Fiscal Year Targets					Notes
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
3	Percent increase in DAIL-assisted farmers adopting improved technologies and practices as a result of USG assistance	Panel survey of farmers assisted in each year	10%	20%	25%	30%	40%	Cumulative target
IR 1: Institutional capacity of MAIL and DAIL increased								
7	Percent of AGRED benchmarks achieved required for USAID certification for direct provision of funds (on-budget) to MAIL (^PMP 5.3.3b)	0	--	50%	60%	65%	70%	Cumulative target
8	Funds received by MAIL through AGRED on-budget funding mechanism	0	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	To be set in conjunction with MAIL and USAID
5	Percent of MAIL/DAIL staff trained who are competent in skills taught	To be assessed through pre-tests	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	Cumulative target
Sub IR 1.1.1 Applied research and extension infrastructure improved in 7 target provinces/50 target districts								
13	Number of national research centers and laboratories and assisted	0	--	5	6	7	7	Cumulative target

Indicator No.	Performance Indicators for Reporting to USAID	Baseline	Fiscal Year Targets					Notes
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
	through USG assistance^ (PMP 5.3.2a) ¹							
Sub IR 1.1.2 Agricultural related applied research improved								
11	Number of competitive research awards issued/provided to researchers	0	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	To be set in conjunction with MAIL after RAC established
6	Percent of competitive research awardees who produce quality research	0	--	50%	60%	70%	--	
Sub IR 1.1.3 Capacity of research and extension staff increased to deliver quality services								
12	Number of MAIL/DAIL staff trained in job-related skills	0	50	100	150	200		Cumulative target
Sub IR 1.2 MAIL Core systems improved								
9	Percent increase in MAIL/DAIL organizational capacity areas targeted by AGRED as measured by the Organizational Capacity Assessment	To be assessed through OCAT prior to assistance	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	To be set in conjunction with MAIL after baseline established

¹ USAID PMP Indicator: Number of national research stations and laboratories built, rehabilitated, or assisted.

Indicator No.	Performance Indicators for Reporting to USAID	Baseline	Fiscal Year Targets					Notes
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
	Tool (OCAT)							
IR 1.2.1 Capacity of MAIL staff on M&E systems development and management increased								
5	Percent of MAIL/DAIL staff trained who are competent in skills taught	To be assessed through pre-tests	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	Cumulative target Indicator also measures IR elsewhere
IR 2: Farmers' access to improved agricultural technologies, knowledge and education increased								
IR 2.1 MAIL/DAIL outreach to farmers increased								
10	Percent of targeted farmers reached through public awareness campaigns	0	--	10%	15%	20%	25%	
3	Percentage of DAIL-assisted farmers adopting improved technologies and practices as a result of USG assistance	Panel survey of farmers assisted in each year	10%	20%	25%	30%	40%	Cumulative target Indicator also measures IR elsewhere
IR 2.2 Best practices and methods related to improved technologies produced and available								
4	Number of new technologies made available (e.g. in tech-	TBA through farm-level survey	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	To be set in conjunction with MAIL

Indicator No.	Performance Indicators for Reporting to USAID	Baseline	Fiscal Year Targets					Notes
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
	packs) for transfer as a result of USG Assistance^ (^PMP5.3.2b)							

